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taining the repeal of the last of the Taxes on Knowledge—the Duty upon Paper. He congratulated the Society on the success with which their exertions were about to be crowned, and he set before the meeting the great obligations they were under to Mr. Milner Gibson, who had from the first so strenuously urged upon successive Governments the necessity of such a measure. After the condemnation of this tax by the House of Commons, it was evident that the duty could no longer be maintained, and that it was only kept on owing to the loss the revenue would sustain. Mr. Gladstone, in his excellent Budget, had had the courage to overcome this difficulty, and he was deserving of every praise for his enlightened conduct.

Dr. Watts moved the first resolution,—“That the Excise Duty on Paper obstructs literature and education, impedes commerce, wastes capital, harasses industry, injures the revenue, is incapable of collection without violating the law of the land, has been condemned by Parliament, and ought to be repealed forthwith.” He then set before the meeting many of the anomalies and hardships in the paper trade caused by the duty, and showed the great advantages that would arise from its abolition.

Mr. Thomas Routledge, of Eynsham Mills, in seconding the motion, ridiculed the idea that good paper could only be made from rags. He himself made six tons a-week, without one bit of rag entering into its composition. He was of opinion that there would be no scarcity of material arising from the increased consumption of paper, but quite the contrary. There was hardly anything that would not make paper, and there would be no difficulty in obtaining the raw material from foreign countries. They could obtain New Zealand flax and West Indian fibre, which would make excellent paper. He was in connection with a company sending machines out for the purpose of preparing this fibre, which was growing in a state of luxuriance of which they could form no idea.

Mr. Alderman Towle supported the motion, and concurred in thinking there would be no scarcity of raw materials when the Paper Duty was off. He said he could pick up in the streets of London any day a hundred-weight of material fit for the manufacture of paper. He agreed with Mr. Gladstone in thinking that when the duty was removed, mills would be opened all over the country. He himself worked two mills,—one a hand-mill, and the other a machine; and while he could make £1 from the hand-mill, he could not make more than 10s. by the machine. The resolution was agreed to.

Mr. Fielde rose to move what he termed a rider to the motion, which was as follows:—“That while this meeting agrees with the resolution, they are of the opinion that the full amount of good which lies in the Repeal of the Paper Duty can never be fully developed without a one-halfpenny stamp to carry two ounces of printed matter throughout the United Kingdom to back it.” After a great deal of confusion, the meeting voted the amendment to be irrelevant, and not to be discussed.

Mr. Charles Knight proposed the next resolution,—“That this meeting, rejoicing in the prospect of the Exemption of the Press from all taxation, records its acknowledgments to Mr. Milner Gibson, for his eleven years' labour in the cause, and to Mr. Gladstone, for his proposal in his present Budget to complete that Exemption.”

Professor Key briefly seconded the resolution, which was agreed to.

Mr. Francis moved the third resolution, for the presentation of a Petition to the House of Commons, setting forth the objections to the duty, and urging its immediate repeal, as well as the proposed abolition of the Newspaper Stamp, and the reduction of the rates of Book Postage. He produced several copies of newspapers published fifty years ago, and compared them with what were being now daily published, and said he had no doubt there would still be a great improvement in newspapers when the Paper Duty should be abolished.

Mr. Washington Wilks seconded the resolution, which was carried.

Some angry discussion took place towards the end of the meeting, in consequence of the irregular manner in which Mr. Bohn insisted on putting the following motion by way of amendment:—“That the Petition be not presented until the meeting has a guarantee of free trade in rags both in France and Germany.” The question whether this motion be discussed was put, and negatived almost unanimously.

The meeting terminated with a vote of thanks to the Chairman.

THE GLASGOW MUSICAL FESTIVAL.

THE Glasgow Festival took place on the 24th of January and the three following days. Much interest had been raised on the subject of this Festival, it being the first attempt to perform the large sacred works on a grand scale in Scotland. Then the fact that so young a society should have essayed to produce a new oratorio was at once a claim to the regard of those who would encourage the talent of rising composers. The Festival was duly opened with the National Anthem, and with a short inaugurating speech from the Lord Provost, who, it appears, had failed to rehearse his solo. After these came an extremely good performance of *Elijah*. The chorus consisted exclusively of amateurs belonging to Glasgow, and numbered about four hundred. The sopranos have fresh Scottish voices, clear without being shrill; the alti, tenors, and basses are all efficient,—the last, particularly so. The singers were completely under control, and the music was sung with great effect,—some of the most difficult and delicate parts being brought out with unusual force and beauty. The band was from London, led by Mr. Blagrove, and in all respects equal to the task. It is only necessary to give the names of the solo singers to show that the very first talent had been secured—Madame Novello and Miss Dolby, Mr. Sims Reeves, Mr. Lockey, Mr. Weiss, and Mr. Winn; and, in addition to these, there was a Miss Whitham, a young Yorkshire lady with a superb soprano voice, but who it appears is considerably deficient, at present, in the power of modulating her tones: with more study there is a probability that she may rise to eminence in her profession. The oratorio was admirably conducted by Mr. Lambeth, to whom the entire success of the Festival may be attributed, for he is evidently worthy of the position in which he has been placed.

The second performance was a miscellaneous concert, on Wednesday evening, and a large crowd was attracted. Here again the part-singing of the unaccompanied voices was highly creditable to both the singers and their conductor. The solos were of the usual character, and were well chosen for the occasion.

At the third performance, on Thursday morning, was produced Mr. Charles Horsley's new oratorio, *Gideon*. The subject is taken from the sixth and four following chapters of the Book of Judges, and forms a lyrical paraphrase of the Bible text; it is the work of the Rev. Arthur Gurney. The first part begins with the wailings of the people of Israel for their sins, and ends with a chorale,

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sung by Gideon's followers. The second part opens with the destruction of Baal's altar, and the enforcement upon the people of contrition and repentance. A war march commences the third part, indicating the battle between Israel and the Midianites; and the oratorio concludes with a jubilant chorus, introducing the war-cry, "The sword of the Lord and of Gideon." It is evident that there are some most effective pieces in the work. The overture is an elaborate and highly-finished movement. There is a sacred song for the soprano which will no doubt become most popular. The war-song of Gideon is the most important solo, and has much power and vigour about it. The final chorus in the first act is one of the best movements in the oratorio. The choral war-song for male voices was the favorite of all the pieces, and was encored enthusiastically. The battle chorus is vigorous and spirited, and cannot fail to please every audience. *Gideon* was received with much applause. It was beautifully sung by the principal artists and by the excellent chorus; and upon the whole it may be said to have been successful. Our space will not enable us to enter more into detail respecting the oratorio; and probably a further opportunity may arise of hearing it in London, when we may recur to the subject.

On Friday night, the *Messiah* was given. Of this performance it is only necessary to say that it attracted the greatest crowd of the week, and was executed to the entire satisfaction of the audience. It seems to be very doubtful at present whether there will be any surplus funds for charitable institutions, after paying all the expenses of this undertaking. Indeed, if report speaks truly, it is probable that a small deficiency has arisen.

TO CORRESPONDENTS.

We cannot undertake to return offered contributions; the authors, therefore, will do well to retain copies.

We would request those who send us country newspapers, wishing us to read particular paragraphs, to mark the passage, by cutting a slip in the paper near it.

The late hour at which Advertisements reach us, interferes much with their proper classification.

Colored Envelopes are sent to all Subscribers whose payment in advance is exhausted. The paper will be discontinued where the Subscriber neglects to renew. We again remind those who are disappointed in getting back numbers, that only the music pages are stereotyped, and of the rest of the paper, only sufficient are printed to supply the current sale.

Notices of concerts and other information supplied by our friends in the country, must be forwarded as early as possible after the occurrence, otherwise they cannot be inserted. Our correspondents must specifically denote the date of each concert, for without such date no notice can be taken of the performance. All communications must be authenticated by the proper name and address of the writer.

Brief Chronicle of the last Month.

ABERGAVERNYY.—A concert was given on the 2nd of February, by Mr. J. Macrone, organist, at the Swan Hotel Assembly-room, which was attended by upwards of 300 of the principal families in the town and neighbourhood. Miss Kate Burnett and Mr. J. Baker, of Caermarthen, were the vocalists engaged; the instrumental portion being sustained by Miss Bessie M. Waugh, of Monmouth (pianoforte), and Mr. G. F. Davis, of Cardiff (harp).

AMPTHILL.—The Rev. J. Mitchell, late curate of this parish, and chairman of the Choral Society, has been presented by the members of the society with an elegantly bound volume of Handel's *Messiah*, full score, Novello's new edition, as a token of their appreciation of his services on behalf of the society.

AUSTELL.—The members of the Musical Union gave their second concert for this season, in the Assembly-rooms, on the 26th of January last. The orchestra was under the directorship of Mr. Baker, and the different pieces selected for performance were well executed.

BASINGSTOKE.—A performance was given on the 26th of January, at the Town Hall, by the members of the

Elocution Class, in aid of the Building Fund. Various scenes from plays were rehearsed with much effect by the members of the class, interspersed with several songs delightfully sung by Miss Emily Spiller, who was greatly applauded.

BATH.—The Bath City Choral Society gave a concert of sacred music, at the Guildhall, on the 15th ult., comprising selections from the *Messiah*, the *Creation*, and *Judas Maccabæus*. The band and chorus, numbering 120 performers, were under the direction of Mr. J. H. Macfarlane. The principal vocalists were Miss Mullins, and Messrs. Yates, Cockram, and Gibbs; pianoforte, Miss Clara Macfarlane; harmonium, Mr. Field; and leader of the band, Mr. Priest.

BLIND SCHOOL.—An examination and musical performance of the pupils at the Schools of the Society for teaching the Blind to read, and training them in industrial occupations, took place on the 6th of February, at the Institution, in the Avenue-road, Regent's-park. The pupils have evidently made great progress in music, under the tuition of Mr. E. Barnes. The proficiency of the pupils was considered highly satisfactory.

BRIGHTON.—The Sacred Harmonic Society gave their third subscription concert of the season on the 7th of February, when Haydn's *Creation* was performed. The soloists engaged for this occasion were Miss Annie Strong and Messrs. G. Weller and Bishop (of Chichester Cathedral Choir), who acquitted themselves satisfactorily. The band, as usual, was led by Herr Stern. Mr. J. E. Roe presided at the organ, and Mr. Gutteridge conducted.

BRISTOL.—The open night of the Orpheus Glee Society was on the 16th ult., when the singers, exceeding thirty, met in the Victoria-room. The audience was large, and the performance good and attractive. Mr. F. H. Crook conducted.

BRUNSWICK CHAPEL, UPPER BERKELEY-STREET.—Mr. A. H. Lowe has been elected organist of this chapel, in the place of Mr. Abbott, deceased.

BURY.—The members of Mr. Spark's Concert Choir have resolved to form themselves into a Choral Union, not to exceed fifty persons,—the object being the cultivation of vocal compositions, and the attainment of proficiency, precision, and effect in choral and part-singing. Rules are adopted of a very satisfactory character,—one important regulation being that no one will be admitted a member who is not able to read music. Mr. Spark is appointed conductor; Mr. J. Randle Fletcher, accompanist; and Mr. J. Harwood, treasurer and secretary.

CAMBERWELL.—A Choral Society (meeting for practice every Monday evening, at the British School-room, Leipsic-road) has been, within the last month, established at this place, with the Rev. Mr. Baumgartner, M.A., as president; Mr. Heath as vice-president; and Mr. Alfred Cocking, organist of Emmanuel Church, as musical conductor. The society already numbers more than forty efficient members.

CANTERBURY.—Mr. Longhurst has just received a very gratifying token of the esteem in which he is held by the parishioners of St. Paul's, in this city. For many years Mr. Longhurst has gratuitously rendered valuable assistance in the musical portion of the services of St. Paul's Church, and on Friday, January 27th, a meeting was held in the School-room, for the purpose of presenting him with a very handsome time-piece as a testimonial. The Rev. T. Hirst, the esteemed vicar of the parish, prefaced the presentation by a highly complimentary address.

CHATHAM.—Mr. Henniker's second annual concert took place on the 16th ult. The vocalists were Miss Emily Spiller, Miss Van Norvden, and Mr. Bodda. Violin, Mr. Blagrove; violoncello, Mr. Aylward; flute, Mr. Philips Smith; and pianoforte, Mr. Henniker. Conductor, Mr. Collins.

CHERTSEY.—A testimonial, consisting of an elegant